



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 5:31 pm, Monday, January 24, 2022, in open session via the Cisco Webex virtual meeting platform, with Chairperson Reggie Van Lee presiding. The meeting was livestreamed to the Commission's YouTube channel for public viewing.

Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Reggie Van Lee, *Chairperson*; Stacie Lee Banks; Cora Masters Barry; Maggie Fitzpatrick; Quanice, Floyd; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma H. Gates; MaryAnn Miller; Maria Rooney; Hector Torres; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen B. Wharton; Derek Younger

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Natalie Hopkinson; Kymber Menkiti; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; Carla Sims;

STAFF ATTENDEES:

Heran Sereke-Brhan, *Executive Director*; David Markey, *Deputy Director*; J. Carl Wilson, *General Counsel*; Lauren Dugas Glover, *Public Art Manager*; Brian Allende, *Resource Allocation Officer*; Jeffrey Scott, *Chief of Staff*; Patrick Realiza, *Social Media Specialist*

Quorum

A quorum was determined to be present.

Land Acknowledgment

The Chair read the acknowledgment of the ancestral lands of the Nacotchtank and Piscataway Peoples.

Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting's agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the December 20, 2021, regular meeting and the January 21, 2022 special meeting were both approved by unanimous consent.

Welcome

Chairperson Van Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for the Director's Report.

Director's Report

Executive Director Sereke-Brhan presented the Director's Report on recent agency activities. The application deadline for the FY22 Juried Exhibition Grant was Friday, January 21, 2022, applications for both the FY22 Facilities and Buildings-Relief grant program and the FY22 Color the Curb School Safety grant program will open Friday, February 4, 2022, and applications for FY23 General Operating Support grants will open Friday, January 28, 2022. On January 14, 2022, the Director participated in the Mid-Atlantic Region State and Jurisdiction Partnership meeting with the Executive Directors of the state arts agencies for Delaware, Pennsylvania, US Virgin Islands, New York, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia,

and New Jersey. The meeting was convened by the regional arts organization Mid-Atlantic Arts, and topics included shared updates on advocacy and public policy efforts. Grantmakers in the Arts will be offering racial equity training workshops in the spring, which six CAH staff members from grants, public art, and arts education have signed up to participate in. The Director concluded the report by noting that CAH's annual performance oversight hearing before the DC Council's Committee of the Whole has been scheduled for Friday, March 4, 2022.

Public Comment

Artist Rajan Sedalia presented public comment, expressing concerns with the accessibility of CAH grants programs due to the amount of paperwork required in submitting a grant application, noting that grant programs in other areas did not have as much paperwork required as part of the application process.

Finance Report

Resource Allocation Officer Brian Allende gave the Finance Report, noting that while \$7.9 million of the \$30 million grants budget for the current fiscal year shows as available, that amount will continue to decrease as more grant agreements are executed and purchase orders established. Commissioner Torres asked if a breakdown by grant program could be included in future reports; Resource Allocation Officer Allende said that such a breakdown was typically included previously and would be again in future reports. Commissioner Fitzpatrick asked if demographic data was included; Deputy Director Markey responded that demographic data has been easier to obtain and analyze from individual artists, whereas organizations faced certain challenges such as HR concerns, difficulties in ascertaining audience data at the point of sale if a single patron purchases tickets for multiple people, and so forth.

New Business

Commissioner Masters Barry asked feedback on the commissioner-staff retreat held as part of the past weekend's special meeting. Commissioner Fitzpatrick remarked that it was a good start, but additional work was needed. Resource Allocation Officer Allende suggested multiple ongoing sessions. Commissioner Torres remarked that he would like to learn more about the staff; Commissioner Uclés and Commissioner Masters Barry agreed. Commissioner Uclés suggested that possibly a meeting could be held for commissioners to meet the staff and become better acquainted.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:11 pm.

Minutes approved this 28th day of February 2022,